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Line 841-844; 844-846 Theme--Karma and rebirth

CDE Project Grade six

Line 841-844 Original

Success or failure at existing in harmony with dharma determines how many times an individual might be subject to reincarnation, or repeated death and rebirth at either lower or higher positions of moral and ritual purity.

Shrinivas Tilak comment

The statement is ambiguous possibly because a word or two are missing and will not make sense to a grade six student. It may be re-written for clarity in light of comment below.

Suggested change

Karma and rebirth/re-death are *partly* related in terms of the three time frames. While acts performed in a *past* life determine and shape one's present life; one has the freedom to perform a good (i.e. as enjoined by dharma) or bad deed in *present* life that will determine the course of one's *future* life (and to some extent even the present life).

Line 846-848 Original

Progress toward spiritual realization is governed by karma, the principle that right deeds done in one lifetime condition an individual's place in the next one.

Suggested change

Progress toward spiritual realization is governed *in part* by karma, the principle that right deeds done in *present* lifetime condition an individual's place in the next one.

Bio of Dr. Tilak:

Shrinivas Tilak (Ph.D. History of Religions, McGill University, Montreal, Canada) has taught courses related to India and Hinduism at universities in Montreal, Canada.

His publications include:

The Myth of Sarvodaya: A study in Vinoba's concept (New Delhi: Breakthrough Communications 1984);

Religion and Aging in the Indian Tradition (Albany, N. Y.: State University of New York Press, 1989),

Understanding karma in light of Paul Ricoeur's philosophical anthropology and hermeneutics (Charleston, SC: BookSurge, revised, paperback edition, 2007).

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